

VZCZCXRO0230
PP RUEHFK
DE RUEHKO #3121 1580450
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 070450Z JUN 06
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2937
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 6599
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 9830
RUEHB/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2668
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1075
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 8841
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0631
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 003121

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OITP KMDR KPAO JA
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION SUSPECTED US TROOPS' KILLING OF
IRAQI CIVILIANS - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Most Wednesday morning papers front-paged reports concerning a set of recommendations on telecommunications and broadcasting reform compiled Tuesday by an advisory panel to Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications Takenaka, including a complete breakup of NTT and a reduction in the number of NHK's radio and satellite TV stations.

¶1. "Incomplete Investigation Cannot Build Confidence in the US" An editorial in the liberal Mainichi commented (6/7): "...In the aftermath of the Abu Ghraib scandal, there are suspicions that US troops have killed innocent Iraqi civilians in a number of cities. Although US military authorities have determined that there were no problems with some of the killings, the suspicions continue to deepen. At this point, we hope for a serious investigation on the part of US military authorities. Now that a permanent Iraqi government has been formed, attention is turning to the withdrawal of foreign troops, including Japan's GSDF unit. Earning the antipathy of Iraqis will make it more difficult to improve the security situation and to create the conditions that would allow the pullout of foreign troops. This is not an issue for the US alone....

¶2. "It is said that more than 30,000 Iraqi civilians have already died in the war. If the US military wishes to view itself as a liberation force that freed Iraqis from a dictatorship, it should take the greatest possible care to prevent civilians from being caught in the crossfire and should strictly bring to account those responsible for killing or wounding civilians, whether accidentally or deliberately. Some within the US have linked the suspected killings with the My Lai massacre during the Vietnam War.... We wonder whether the madness of war that

reared its head 40 years ago is sneaking up on US troops in Iraq. This is a point that the US must examine in the most careful and humble way possible."

SCHIEFFER